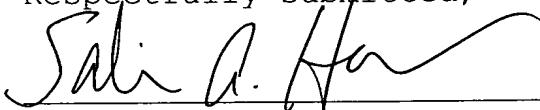


In re Appln. of Nie et al.
Serial No. 09/405,653

instant application, the Examiner is invited to call the
undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,



Salim Hasan, Reg. No. 38,175
One of the Attorneys for Applicants
LEYDIG, VOIT & MAYER, LTD.
Two Prudential Plaza, Suite 4900
180 North Stetson
Chicago, Illinois 60601-6780
(312) 616-5600 (telephone)
(312) 616-5700 (facsimile)

Date: January 19, 2000

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT (along with any documents referred to as being attached or enclosed) is being deposited with the United States Postal Service on the date shown below with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231.

Date: 1-19-00

